

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 03600 262250Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /039 W
-----062840 270700Z /11
R 262235Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9765

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PINS PE
SUBJ: GOP CANCELS FREE RADIO AND TV TIME FOR TWO LEFTIST
PARTIES

REF: LIMA 3132

1. THE GOP'S SPECIAL COMMISSION FOR ELECTORAL PROPAGANDA ANNOUNCED THE CANCELLATION OF FREE RADIO AND TV TIME ALLOTTED TWO LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTIES: UNIDAD DEMOCRATICO POPULAR (UDP) AND THE FRENTE OBRERO CAMPESINO ESTUDIANTE Y POPULAR (FOCEP). IT ALSO ANNULLED THEIR RIGHTS TO REDUCED RATES IN BUYING MEDIA TIME. THE APRIL 25 COMMUNIQUE ASSERTS THAT THE PRESENTATIONS OF UDP AND FOCEP REPRESENTATIVES HAVE "DISTORTED THE ETHICAL PRINCIPLE OF CRITICISM AND THE PURPOSE OF CAMPAIGN PROPAGANDA" AND "THE PARTIES HAVE NOT MADE CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF THE FREE FORUM MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM IN RADIO AND TELEVISION."

2. ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFIED IN THE COMMUNIQUE, GOP DECISION PROBABLY IS IN RESPONSE TO UDP'S SUPPORT ON TV OF HUNGER STRIKERS AND OTHER LABOR PROTESTS (LIMA 3256 AND REFTTEL) AND FOCEP CANDIDATE HUGO BLANCO'S TV PROPOSALS THAT PERU DISSOLVE THE ARMED FORCES AND REPLACE THEM WITH A PEOPLE'S MILITIA (LIMA 3362).

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3. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT'S DAILY "LA CRONICA" LINKED THE ABOLISHMENT OF UDP AND FOCEP'S MEDIA PRIVILEGES TO THE APRIL 24 SPEECH OF PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ (SEPTTEL) WHICH REFLECTED THE PREOCCUPATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OVER PARTISAN ATTACKS ON THE MILITARY INSTITUTION. THE SUSPENSION OF FREE TIME FOR UDP AND FOCEP APPEARS TO BE A CONCESSION

BY MORALES BERMUDEZ TO RIGHTIST CHALLENGES TO HIS LEADERSHIP AND TO THE ENTIRE ELECTORAL PROCESS. THE DECISION IS THE FIRST DIRECT GOP INTERVENTION IN CAMPAIGN PRACTICES KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY. ALTHOUGH IT MAY TEMPORARILY APPEASE RIGHTIST MILITARY OFFICERS, THE DECISION WILL ONLY EMBARRASS PERUVIAN POLITICAL PARTIES WHOSE LEADERS MAY NOW FEEL COMPELLED TO OPPOSE THIS DE FACTO "CENSORSHIP" OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SPEECHES (EVEN THOUGH APRA LEADERS, FOR INSTANCE, STATE PRIVATELY THAT THE UDP AND FOCEP GOT WHAT THEY DESERVED). ACCION POPULAR (AP) WILL PROBABLY CONTEND THAT THIS GOP INTERFERENCE IN POLITICS FURTHER VINDICATES THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENSORSHIP, POLITICAL REPRESSION, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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